in near-shore marine waters. In Washington, Oregon and California, they nest on large limbs of mature or old-growth conifers, flying inland up to 80 kilometers (50 miles) to nest. The Service solicits review and comment from the public on this draft plan.

DATES: Comments on the draft recovery plan must be received on or before October 10, 1995 to receive consideration by the Service.

ADDRESSES: Persons wishing to review the draft recovery plan may obtain a copy by contacting the State Supervisor, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Oregon State Office, 2600 S.E. 98th Avenue, Suite 100, Portland, Oregon 97266 (telephone: 503–231–6179), or the Assistant Regional Director, Ecological Services, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Eastside Federal Complex, 911 N.E. 11th Avenue, Portland, Oregon 97232–4181 (telephone: 503–231–6131). Written comments and materials regarding the plan should be addressed to Mr. Russell D. Peterson, State Supervisor, at the above Portland Field Office address. Comments and materials received are available on request for public inspection, by appointment, during normal business hours at the above Oregon State Office address.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Mr. Gary S. Miller at the above Oregon State Office address (telephone: 503–231–6179).

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

Background

Restoring endangered or threatened animals and plants to the point where they are again secure, self-sustaining members of their ecosystems is a primary goal of the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service's (Service) endangered species program. To help guide the recovery effort, the Service is working to prepare recovery plans for most of the listed species native to the United States. Recovery plans describe actions considered necessary for the conservation of the species, establish criteria for reclassification or delisting, and estimate time and cost for implementing the recovery measures needed.

The Endangered Species Act of 1973 (Act), as amended (16 U.S.C. 1531 *et seq.*) requires the development of recovery plans for listed species unless such a plan would not promote the conservation of a particular species. Section 4(f) of the Act, as amended in 1988, requires that public notice and an opportunity for public review and comment be provided during recovery plan development. The Service will consider all information presented during a public comment period prior to approval of each new or revised recovery plan. The Service and other Federal agencies will also take these comments into account in the course of implementing approved recovery plans.

In North America, Marbled Murrelets range along the Pacific coast from Alaska to California. The Washington, Oregon and California population breeds along a coastal strip from the Olympic Peninsula and northern Cascades, Washington, and along the coasts of Oregon and California. Their at-sea distribution becomes discontinuous in this area. The southern end of the breeding range occurs in central California. Some wintering birds are found in southern California and as far south as northern Baja California, Mexico. Marbled Murrelets feed primarily on fish and invertebrates in near-shore marine waters. In Washington, Oregon and California, they nest on large limbs of mature or old-growth conifers, flying inland up to 80 kilometers (50 miles) to nest. Currently, breeding populations are not distributed continuously throughout the forested portion of the three-state area. Recent at-sea survey work also indicates that current populations of Marbled Murrelets are experiencing extremely low recruitment. The principal causes of decline are nesting habitat modification (both loss and fragmentation of nesting habitat) and mortality from net fisheries and oil spills. Critical habitat was proposed for the species on January 27, 1994 (59 FR 3811). Recovery of this species will require securing currently suitable nesting habitat, decreasing adult and juvenile mortality, increasing suitable habitat quality and quantity, and continued research to address more specific life-history requirements.

Public Comment Solicited

The Service solicits written comments on the draft recovery plan described. All comments received by the date specified will be considered prior to approval of the plan.

Author

The author of this notice is Gary Miller (see Oregon State Office address above).

Authority

The authority for this action is section 4(f) of the Endangered Species Act, 16 U.S.C. 1533(f).

Dated: July 21, 1995.

Michael Spear,

Regional Director, Region 1, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service.

[FR Doc. 95–19354 Filed 8–9–95; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 4310–55–M

Availability of a Finding of No Significant Impact

AGENCY: Fish and Wildlife Service, Interior.

ACTION: Notice of the availability of a Finding of No Significant Impact.

SUMMARY: The purpose of this Notice is to make available to the public the Finding of No Significant Impact pursuant to an Environmental Assessment regarding the release in the United States of three nonindigeneous insects *Galerucella calmariensis, Galerucella pusilla,* and *Hylobius tansversovittatus*. The purpose of the release is to reduce and control *Lythrum salicaria* on Service-managed wetlands and to assist the States in the reduction and control of purple loosestrife on non-Service wetlands.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Sean Furniss, Refuge Program Specialist, Division of Refuges, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, 600 ARLSQ, 1849 C Street NW., Washington, D.C. 20240.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: The Fish and Wildlife Service made available for public comment an Environmental Assessment through publication on June 19, 1995, in the **Federal Register** (60 FR 32023). Upon review of the comments received and the scientific evidence supporting the Environmental Assessment, it was determined that the introduction of the three nonindigeneous insects would have no significant impact on the quality of the human environment. This finding of no significant impact (FONSI) reads in whole as follows:

Finding Of No Significant Impact

The United States Fish and Wildlife Service (Service), U.S. Department of the Interior, proposes to release in the United States three nonindigeneous insects *Galerucella calmariensis, Galerucella pusilla,* and *Hylobius tansversovittatus* in addition to the two previously approved nonindigeneous insects *Nanophyes marmoratus* and *N. brevis*. The Service proposes to release these five insect species so they can contribute to the biological control of purple loosestrife (*Lythrum salicaria*), an introduced weed, on Service-managed wetlands and to assist the States to reduce and control this plant

on non-Service wetlands. These insects are not native to North America.

During the summer of 1995, the Service proposes to acquire and begin releasing the beetles at selected refuges in Fish and Wildlife Service Regions 3 and 5. In following years, the Service will acquire and release the beetles throughout the range of purple loosestrife in the United States.

The primary reason for releasing these five insect species as a tool for purple loosestrife control is to lessen the negative environmental impacts caused by purple loosestrife infestations themselves and the methods used currently to control the weed plant. The intended result of the proposed action is to cause positive environmental impacts.

In addition to the proposed action, the Service also considered the alternative of continuing current management of purple loosestrife on Service lands without biological control agents as well as the alternative of using the two previously approved biological control agents *Nanophyes marmoratus* and *N. brevis* in addition to the current management practices. The selected alternative is the proposed action of releasing the five insects to develop a continuous biological control of the plant.

Based on my review and evaluation of the subject Environmental Assessment, I find that the proposed release in the United States of *G. calmariensis, G. pusilla, Hylobius tansversovittatus, Nanophyes marmoratus* and *N. brevis* as tools for the control of purple loosestrife *Lythrum salicaria,* as described in the environmental assessment, is not expected to have a significant negative impact on the quality of the human environment. This finding is supported by the following:

1. The host ranges of *G. calmariensis, G. pusilla, Hylobius tansversovittatus, Nanophyes marmoratus* and *N. brevis* are restricted to the genus of the target host *Lythrum salicaria.* Once released, these species are not expected to feed on any plant species other than the nonindigenous target weed, purple loosestrife.

2. Releases of these insect species are not expected to have negative impacts on any endangered or threatened species listed by any Federal Government or State Government.

3. Use of chemical pesticides and fire to control purple loosestrife would be reduced if, as expected, the proposed biological control agents prove to be both safe and efficacious.

4. The proposed release is expected to have a positive effect on biotic diversity in aquatic natural resources.

Dated: July 13, 1995.

Robert Streeter,

Assistant Director, Refuges and Wildlife, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service.

Dated: August 2, 1995.

Robert C. Lesino,

Acting Assistant Director, Refuges and Wildlife.

[FR Doc. 95–19781 Filed 8–9–95; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 4310–55–M

Availability of an Environmental Assessment, Habitat Conservation Plan, and Receipt of an Application for an Incidental Take Permit for the Sam Houston Resource Conservation & Development Areas, Inc., Native Gulf Coast Prairie Restoration Project

AGENCY: Fish and Wildlife Service, Interior.

ACTION: Notice.

SUMMARY: Sam Houston Resource Conservation & Development Area, Incorporated has applied to the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (Service) for an incidental take permit pursuant to section 10(a) of the Endangered Species Act (Act). The proposed permit, which is for a period not to exceed 99 years, would authorize the future take of the endangered Attwater's prairie chicken Tympanuchus cupido attwateri (APC) and the endangered Houston toad Bufo houstonensis incidental to such lawful activities as farming, ranching, residential development, etc., on private land in the Gulf Coast Prairie Ecosystem of Texas. The proposed permit would authorize incidental take only on land that is enrolled in the ''safe harbor'' program.

An Environmental Assessment (EA) and Habitat Conservation Plan (HCP) have been prepared for the incidental take permit application. A determination of jeopardy to the species or a Finding of No Significant Impact (FONSI) will not be made before 30 days from the date of publication of this notice. This notice is provided pursuant to section 10(c) of the Act and National Environmental Policy Act regulations (40 CFR 1506.6).

DATES: Written comments on the permit application should be received on or before September 11, 1995.

ADDRESSES: Persons wishing to review the application may obtain a copy by writing to the Regional Director, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, P.O. Box 1306, Albuquerque, New Mexico 87103. Persons wishing to review the EA and/or HCP may obtain a copy by contacting either Mr. Steven D. Arey or Ms. Edith A. Erfling, Clear Lake Field Office, 17629 El Camino Real, Suite 211, Houston, Texas 77058 (713/286–8282). Documents will be available by written request for public inspection, by appointment, during normal business hours at the Clear Lake Field Office (8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.). Written data or comments concerning the application or EA should be submitted to the Field Supervisor (see **ADDRESS** above). Please refer to Permit Number PRT–805073).

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Mr. Steven D. Arey or Ms. Edith A. Erfling at the above Clear Lake Field Office.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: Section 9 of the Act prohibits the ''taking'' of endangered species such as the Attwater's prairie chicken or the Houston toad. However, the Service, under limited circumstances, may issue permits to take endangered wildlife species incidental to, and not the purpose of, otherwise lawful activities. Regulations governing permits for endangered species are at 50 CFR 17.22.

Sam Houston Resource Conservation & Development Area, Incorporated has initiated a program to restore, conserve, enhance, and maintain the historic Gulf Coast Prairies of Texas and to ensure the continued existence of the coastal prairie ecosystem. A significant component of the success of the program is the development of a plan under Section 10(a)(1)(B) of the Act that encourages restoration, conservation and/or enhancement of prairie habitats that support either endangered or threatened species of fish or wildlife on private land in return for protection—a ''safe habor''—from any additional future liabilities under the Act.

Only land that is enrolled in the ''safe habor'' program for which a landowner Prairie Restoration Agreement (Agreement) has been signed will be covered by the proposed permit. The Agreement will specify the proposed habitat improvements and record the general condition of the site through maps, photos, and biological surveys. Agreements will be for a minimum of 10 years and subject to a potential repayment obligation to RC&D, of an amount equal to 100% of the amounts expended, if the Agreement is terminated due to a cooperator's breach of the Agreement.

This proposal does not involve the incidental take of *existing* endangered species habitat; i.e., the baseline habitat on private land will be protected. Nor does the proposal allow an endangered species to be shot, captured or otherwise directly ''taken''.

The area to be affected by the proposed action encompasses 19 counties within the Gulf Coast Prairies